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4-5-1838

Memorial of a number of citizens of Washington County, Arkansas, praying the erection of a fort at or near the town of Fayetteville, in said county

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MEMORIAL

OF

A NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY,  
ARKANSAS,

PRAYING

*The erection of a fort at or near the town of Fayetteville, in said county.*

APRIL 5, 1838.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled :*

Your memorialists, citizens of the county of Washington, and State of Arkansas, perceive with pleasure that the defence of the western frontier has already been moved in Congress. It is a subject in itself important to the country, but doubly so to the inhabitants of the border ; for, should they be doomed to remain, as heretofore, without the means of effective defence, they may, at no distant day, be overtaken by the most disastrous calamities—a general Indian war. Whilst the subject is under consideration, your memorialists would beg leave, respectfully, to urge the necessity of establishing a fort or “ subsidiary station ” as near the town of Fayetteville, in said State, as a suitable site can be procured.

We need not say that the Indian tribes, situated as they are at present, thrown together and embodied by the policy of the Government, could organize and bring into the field a larger force than they have been ever able to muster since the establishment of the Government ; a force which, for a time, would task the energy of the nation to subdue. Nor need we advert to the fact that a portion of them, forced from their ancient homes east of the Mississippi, some of them, too, in chains, have brought with them feelings of the deadliest hostility to the very name and race of the white man, nor to the barbarian cruelty and indiscriminate slaughter which characterize the Indian mode of warfare : these facts are known to all.

We would further remark that, if a fort or station were placed on or near the Indian line, the inhabitants would, in case of war, retreat into the interior, rather than incur the hazard of transporting their families towards the scene of danger ; that the face of the country, both in this county and within the Indian territory, is such as to render it easy of access to a war party ; that Fayetteville is about the centre of population on the frontier from Fort Smith to the Missouri line, (about twenty-one miles east of the Indian boundary,) in front of the main body of the tribes west, and in their immediate vicinity.

We would further suggest that Fayetteville may be easily approached from the south and east by the military road already being constructed by the Government. We do not think it necessary that a large number of troops should be stationed here; but prudence and the security of our citizens require that there should be a post erected and furnished with a suitable supply of artillery and small arms, so that our citizens, should circumstances require it, may take possession of it, with their families and defend it until succored from without. We confidently believe that Government would most efficiently contribute to our defence by providing us the means of protecting ourselves.

The early attention of your honorable body is respectfully solicited to the subject of this our memorial.

FAYETTEVILLE, *February 27, 1838.*

Jacob W. Walker  
Onesimus Evans  
Isaac Murphy  
J. M. Hoge  
M. Wright  
Sebron G. Sneed  
A. B. Anthony

L. Brodie  
John Cureton  
B. H. Smithson  
M. Leeper  
Joseph McKisick  
W. S. Wallace  
L. D. Evans